whether separate trade protocols are proposed to be signed with them; and

(e) if so, the names of such Republics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). Yes Sir. The trade negotiations with the Russian Republic are likely to commence shortly. There is as yet no formal proposal to set up an an Indo-Russian Joint Commission.

(d) and (e). A trade agreement has already been concluded with the Republic of Uzbekistan. Preliminary talks in this regard have also been held with Kazaksthan and Kirghizia.

[*Translation*]

Sainik Rest House at Kotdwar (Garhwal)

262. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Sainik rest house in Kotdwar (Garhwal);

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No proposal has been received from Government of Uttar Pradesh for setting up of a Sainik Rest House at Kotdwar (Garhwal).

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Elections in Punjab

263. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has since been taken for holding elections in Punjab in February next; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken for ensuring fair and free elections in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Elections in Punjab are proposed to be held before February, 15, 1992 though firm dates for holding elections in Punjab have not yet been decided.

(b) Government has already taken adequate steps to deal with terrorist violence, to provide security to the citizens and to maintain law and order. The Governor of Punjab has been touring various parts of the state alongwith senior officers and is attending to the grievance of the people in an effort to bridge the gap between the administration and the people. Attention is also being paid to the economic development of the State and to create more job opportunities for the youth, especially the educated unemployed to wean them away from taking to the terrorist path. All possible efforts are being made to create necessary atmosphere for the conduct of fair polls in the state. Further necessary steps will be taken to ensure free and fair poll as and when these are held.

[*Translation*]

Alleged Irregularities in Customs House in Bombay

264. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:
SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: